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CIA/SAVA / LUVIND 720916



WEEKLY VIETNAM INDICATORS

Week Ending September 16 1972

NSA Declassification/Release Instructions on File.

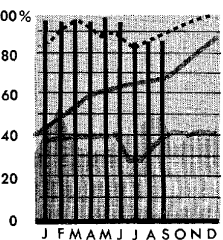
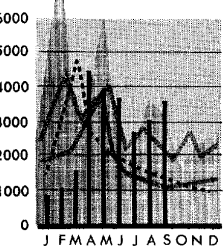
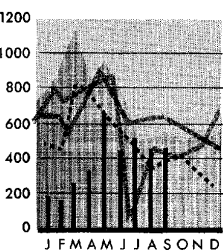
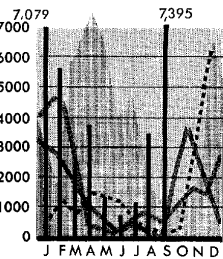
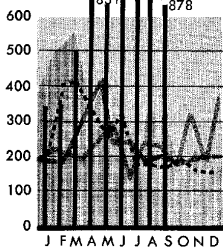
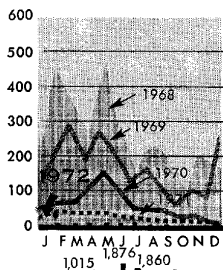
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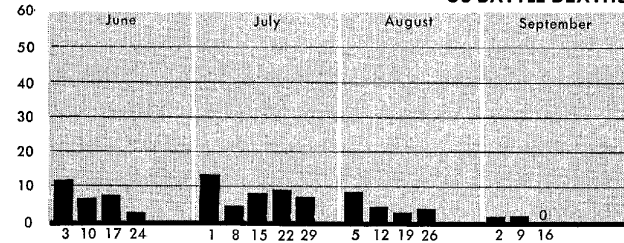
SOUTH VIETNAM WEEKLY INDICATORS

1968-1972
Weekly average for each month

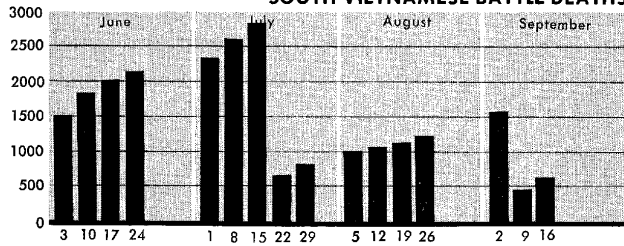
JUNE 1972 - SEPTEMBER 1972
Weekly data as reported



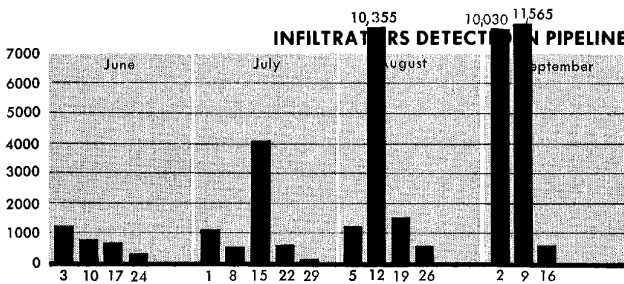
US BATTLE DEATHS dropped to zero from the one of last week.



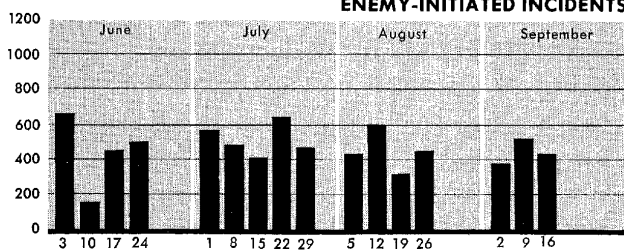
SOUTH VIETNAMESE BATTLE DEATHS totaled 522 this week. This figure is preliminary and may change considerably as more complete information becomes available.



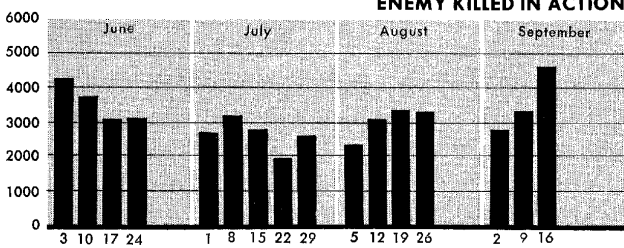
INFILTRATORS DETECTED IN PIPELINE include one regular group totaling 500 personnel. The estimate of infiltrators destined for Cambodia - South Vietnam since 1 October 1971 now stands at 162,400 - 165,400.



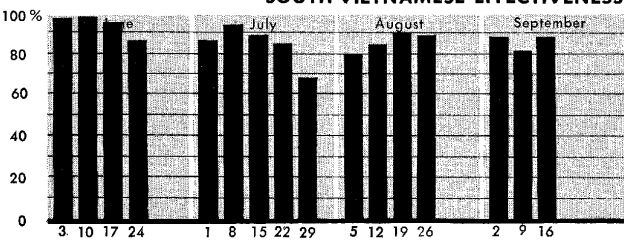
ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS dropped to 422 from the 518 of last week.



ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION increased from last week's 3,449 to 4,625.



SOUTH VIETNAMESE EFFECTIVENESS as measured by the percentage of enemy killed by GVN forces rose from last week's 81% to 88%.



Statistics for the latest week shown are preliminary

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Enemy Activity

In South Vietnam, the main focus of military activity during the week was in Military Region (MR) 1. After prolonged and heavy fighting, South Vietnamese Marines on 15 September recaptured the citadel in Quang Tri City. The enemy may still counterattack, despite the heavy casualties he has sustained; but if GVN forces now hold firm in the city, they will have won a major victory and inflicted a physical and psychological defeat of significant proportions on the enemy. Quang Tri City has been the only provincial capital captured by the Communists in their current offensive, and a number of enemy intercepted messages had ordered troops within the city to defend it to the last man.

In the remainder of the country, enemy-initiated activity was at comparatively low levels, but this appears to be only a temporary hiatus as the Communists continue to make preparations for a new highpoint later this month or in October. Reports from many sources have indicated enemy plans for such heightened military activity, and a number of these reports have indicated that the Communists are exhorting their troops and cadres to a maximum effort so as to achieve the best possible position on the battlefield prior to a ceasefire. These and most other recent reports from Communist sources on the question of a ceasefire, however, have implied that such a ceasefire would come about only as a result of Allied acceptance of Communist terms.

General Vang Pao's offensive in northern Laos, Operation PHOU PHIANG, made no progress during the week. Government irregulars from Bouam Long, north of the Plaine des Jarres, reached one of their primary objectives, a hill-top named Phou San, but were later forced to withdraw. At the same time, North Vietnamese forces have been exerting heavy pressure on government units west of the Plaine near Phou Then and have also attacked friendly positions southwest of the Plaine near Tha Tam Bleung. In addition, the enemy has continued to harass the Long Tieng Valley with artillery and rocket fire. In much of south Laos, a lull in enemy activity continued, and in the lower Panhandle, Lao regular army units maintained their tenuous hold on positions in the town of Muong Wapi, northeast of Khong Sedone.

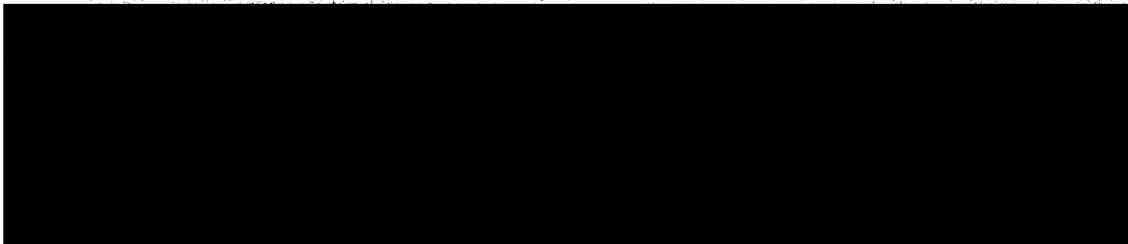
In Cambodia, government forces have finally regained control over Route 5, the vital link between Phnom Penh and the rice producing area of Battambang Province in the northwest. Significant Communist resistance to the road clearing operation apparently never developed, but several bridges destroyed by the enemy will keep the road closed to through traffic a few more days. Meanwhile, rice stocks in Phnom Penh are being rebuilt with the help of temporary airlifts from Battambang and South Vietnam. Southeast of Phnom Penh, along Route 1, Cambodian troops fighting for key high ground near Neak Luong were forced back by a sharp Communist counterattack. Enemy tanks were reported in the area, and the FANK task force commander has called the situation serious. The Communists continue to encircle Svay Rieng City, which is still in the hands of the Government, but so far have not launched a major attack on the city.

Enemy Infiltration and Logistics

During the past week, only one new 500-man group -- apparently headed toward the northern MR 1 area of South Vietnam -- was noted in the infiltration pipeline. The total estimate of NVA infiltrators destined for South Vietnam and Cambodia since 1 October 1971 now stands at 162,400-165,400. The apparent slow-down of infiltration, in comparison with recent weeks, is probably the result of flooding along the infiltration routes in southern North Vietnam. If weather conditions permit, the enemy is likely to make a major effort in coming days to replace his heavy personnel losses in and around Quang Tri City.

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NSA



Logistics movements in southern North Vietnam also continued during the past week, but at a reduced level. A number of intercepted messages from this area have reflected transportation problems caused by heavy rains and high water levels. According to these same messages, however, the North Vietnamese are making intensive efforts to overcome these difficulties, and are urging supply units to increase the use of waterways and barges for the movement of supplies.

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